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S.Y.R.

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/385, 520 08/30/99 BRADSHAW

I 4093P2086

QM12/1204
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 EXAMINER

ASHBURN, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

*#2***DATE MAILED:**

12/04/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/385,520	BRADSHAW, IRA W.
	Examiner Steven L Ashbum	Art Unit 3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 1999.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

20) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings that are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Specification

1. Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The claim contains a typographical error such that it is self-dependent. For the purpose of examination it was assumed that this claim was dependent on claim 1. Applicant is required to take one of the following actions: cancel the claims; amend the claims to place them in proper dependent form; or rewrite the claims in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6, 8 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6 and 18 recite the limitation "a plurality of gaming computers coupled to the central router wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals is located in the proximity of the

gaming table". No provision is made for "gaming terminals" hence there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "The system of claim 7 wherein each of the gaming computers executes a software program which maintains records of the entered transaction data for each of the plurality of gaming tables". No provision is made for "gaming tables" hence there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. While applicant may be his or her own lexicographer, a term in a claim may not be given a meaning repugnant to the usual meaning of that term. See *In re Hill*, 161 F.2d 367, 73 USPQ 482 (CCPA 1947). The term "router" in claims 6, 9, 10 & 18 is used to mean "a common connection point for devices in a network" (e.g. a hub), while the accepted meaning is "a device that connects any number of local area networks."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Franchi (U.S. Patent 5,770,533). Franchi discloses a computer network for monitoring casino activities. The system incorporates processors into all of a casino's gaming machines, including tables, to record all game transactions. The advantages of the system include improved operational tracking and reduced cheating. The patent to Franchi teaches the following:

Claim 1: A system of gaming machines and tables equipped with computers networked to a central processor (fig. 2; col. 4, line 61-67).

Claim 2: Game computers comprised of a processor, memory, input/output devices, and network connections (col. 5, lines 7-10). Player consoles are linked to the game computer. These consoles include displays, keyboards, and card readers (col. 2, line 55-59).

Claim 3: The game computers transmit data to the central processor (col. 5, line 18-21).

Claim 4: The game computers record game transactions (col. 3, lines 6-9) and transmit data to the central computer (col. 5 lines 18-21). In some embodiments, the game computer is eliminated and the central computer directly monitors individual games (col. 5, lines 35-39)

Claims 5: The game computers include peripherals such as input/output devices (col. 5, lines 6-13), chip detectors (col. 3, lines 10-25), playing card sensors (fig. 9, col. 10, lines 42-46), and player consoles,. The player consoles include displays, keyboards, and identification card readers (col. 2, line 55-59).

Claim 6: See response to claim 1.

Claim 7: See response to claim 2. Additionally, the game computers execute software to detect and record game transaction including the following:

- a. player identification and account status (col. 10, lines 33-41)
- b. playing cards dealt (col. 10, lines 42-51)
- c. betting chips received by player (col. 11, lines 13-21)
- d. betting chips received by dealer (col. 11, lines 25-42)
- e. cash received by dealer (col. 12, lines 26-31)

Claim 8: See response to claim 7.

Claim 9: The central computer maintains a record of each players credit status. The gaming computers access this data (col. 6, lines 35-36) through the network by all the gaming computers.

Claim 10: See response to claim 9.

Claim 11: See response to claim 5.

Claim 12: See response to claim 2.

Claim 13: See response to claim 1.

Claim 14: See response to claim 2.

Claim 15: See response to claim 4.

Claim 16: See response to claim 9.

Claim 17: See response to claim 5.

Claim 18: See response to claim 2.

Claim 19: See response to claim 1.

Claim 20: See response to claim 9.

Claim 21: See response to claim 9.

Claim 22: See response to claim 9.

Claim 23: See response to claim 5

Claim 24: See response to claim 2.

Conclusion

7. U.S. Patent 5,957,776 is made of record and not relied upon, however it is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patent to Holche describes a casino game table control system that employs a network of game table computers to monitor currency transactions.

Although not as complex as the patent to Franchi, this patent delves into greater detail on the system's application security and accounting purposes. This patent could serve as the basis for a rejection of the application under 35 USC § 102 and it is strongly recommended that it be considered in any response to this action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven L Ashburn whose telephone number is 703 305 3543. The examiner can normally be reached during standard business hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 703 308 4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 3590 for regular communications and 703 308 3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1078.


Steven Ashburn
November 29, 2000


JESSICA J. HARRISON
PRIMARY EXAMINER